

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The limitations of allowable Claim 21 have been included in Claim 24. Since the remaining claims are directly dependent in Claim 24, all claims should be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the **references cited in the International Search Report, filed in the above-identified application on May 24, 2000**, have been considered. A first request for consideration was filed with the above-identified application on May 24, 2000. No statement regarding the consideration of the references cited in the International Search Report has so far been provided.

The MPEP states as follows:

“The examiner will consider the documents cited in the international search report in a PCT national stage application when the Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates that both the international search report and the copies of the documents are present in the national stage file. In such a case, the examiner should consider the documents from the international search report and indicate by a statement in the first Office action that the information has been considered.”

MPEP §609

**The Office has acknowledged receipt of the International Search Report and the copies of the cited references on Form PCT/DO/EO/903.** A copy of Form PCT/DO/EO/903 is attached herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to acknowledge consideration of the above references. **For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants attach a Form PTO-1449 citing the references from the International Search Report that were not previously cited. This is a courtesy copy.**

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or

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otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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